

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02825 111240 Z

45

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /139 W
----- 035075

R 102339 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9870

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO MAY 10 PRESS ACCOUNTS MININTERIOR ARCE CALLED ON CARDINAL MAURER IN SUCRE MAY 9 AND DISCUSSED CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS. ARCE REPORTEDLY TOLD MAURER THAT IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BANZER GOVERNMENT TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH. ARCE REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED EARLIER PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT, NOTING THAT THESE WERE IN THE PAST AND STATING THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. MAURER REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED ARCE' S PEACE OFFERING BUT ASKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT RELAX ITS CONTROLS OVER CHURCH CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND STOP OPENING CHURCH MAIL.

2. COMMENT: ARCE TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT HE INTENDED IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO WORK TOWARDS BETTER CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS, NOTING THAT GOOD RELATIONS ARE IMPORTANT POLITICALLY FOR THE BANZER GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THESE RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN WARM UNDER BANZER, AND WERE PARTICULARLY WARY FOR ABOUT THE FIRST YEAR FOLLOWING THE BANZER REVOLUTION WHEN THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE

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CHURCH WERE SYMPATHETIC TO AND EVEN PROTECTING TERRORIST
ELEMENTS.

SIRACUSA

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAPAZ02825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730540/aaaaiopn.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980116
Subject: CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, BL, PINT
To: ARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005